

# Guide to Knitting with Multiple Strands of Yarn











## Contents

Yarn Weight Chart .....	Page 2
Yarn Ball Labels .....	Page 3
Wraps Per Inch (WPI) .....	Page 3
Yarn Weight Cheat Sheet for Multiple Strands of Yarn .....	Page 4
Quick Tip for Doubling Yarn .....	Page 5
Stash-Busting / Scrappy Project Steps .....	Page 5
Aesthetic Suggestions for Stash-Busting / Scrappy Projects .....	Page 6
Quick Tip for Estimating Yarn Needed for a Row .....	Page 6
Fabric Effects while Holding Multiple Strands Together .....	Page 7
Yarn Weight Labels .....	Page 11

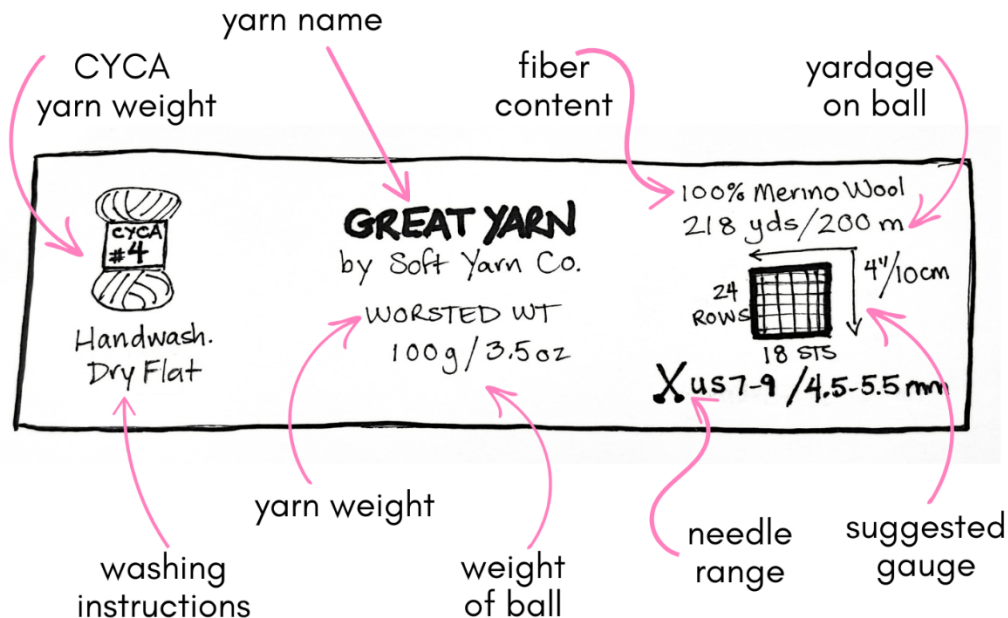


## Yarn Weight Chart

The chart below offers guidance on determining what weight categories your yarns fall into. You can find the CYCA (Craft Yarn Council of America) yarn category by looking at the information provided on your yarn label, working up a swatch, or by counting the WPI (Wraps Per Inch) of your yarn.

CYCA	 LACE DENTELLE Liston	 SUPER FINE SUPER FIN Super Fino	 FINE FIN Fino	 LIGHT LÉGER Ligero	 MEDIUM MOYEN Medio	 BULKY BULKY Abultado	 SUPER BULKY TRÈS ÉPAIS Super Abultado	 JUMBO Géant Jumbo
<b>Common Name</b>	Lace	Fingering	Sport	DK	Worsted	Chunky	Super Bulky	Jumbo
<b>Gauge Range in 4"/10 cm</b>	33-40 sts	27-32 sts	23-26 sts	21-24 sts	16-20 sts	12-15 sts	7-11 sts	6 sts and fewer
<b>Needle Sizes Used (US)</b>	000-1	1-3	3-5	5-7	7-9	9-11	11-15	17 and larger
<b>Needle Sizes Used (mm)</b>	1.5-2.25	2.25-3.25	3.25-3.75	3.75-4.5	4.5-5.5	5.5-8	8-10	12 and larger
<b>Wraps Per Inch (WPI)</b>	30-40 and more	14-30	12-18	11-15	9-12	6-9	5-6	1-4

## Yarn Ball Labels



Yarn labels offer a lot of information about our yarns. Typically, the label will share the weight, fiber content, gauge, knitting needle range, and yardage of a given yarn. This information can then help you categorize your yarn into the correct size/weight range.

If you don't have a label on your yarn, using a WPI tool will help you determine the yarn weight.

## Wraps Per Inch (WPI)

Determining WPI helps us categorize the size/weight of your yarn by counting the number of wraps of yarn that fit within the space of an inch. You can purchase wraps per inch tools or make your own, below.

### Making your own WPI tool

1. Take a straight knitting needle and mark off a 1" space with thick masking tape.
2. Gently wrap your yarn around the needle between the tape to determine the number of wraps per inch the yarn yields.



14 wraps within the inch = DK weight



11 wraps within the inch = Worsted weight




# Yarn Weight Cheat Sheet for Multiple Strands of Yarn






This chart shows the various combinations of lighter weight yarns that will equal heavier weight yarns.

Certainly, there is a range of combinations as some yarns rest on the cusp of two yarn weights (i.e. some sport weights can lean towards fingering weight or DK weight, just as some worsted weights can lean towards DK weight. Furthermore, jumbo weight encompasses a large umbrella of gauges).

If you are unsure, use the Wraps Per Inch tool with all the strands held together to determine the approximate weight of your yarn combination.

Don't be afraid to swatch, rip out, add more yarn, or take out a strand.

	<b>LACE</b>
No yarns combine to make lace	
	<b>FINGERING</b>
0 + 0 / Lace + Lace	
	<b>SPORT</b>
0 + 0 / Lace + Lace	
0 + 1 / Lace + Fingering	

	<b>DK</b>
0 + 1 / Lace + Fingering	
1 + 1 / Fingering + Fingering	
0 + 3 / Lace + Sport	
	<b>WORSTED</b>
1 + 1 / Fingering + Fingering	
1 + 2 / Fingering + Sport	
0 + 3 / Lace + DK	
1 + 3 / Fingering + DK	
	<b>CHUNKY</b>
2 + 2 / Sport + Sport	
2 + 3 / Sport + DK	
1 + 4 / Fingering + Worsted	
0 + 0 + 4 / Lace + Lace + Worsted	
	<b>SUPER BULKY</b>
4 + 4 / Worsted + Worsted	
1 + 1 + 1 + 1 / Fingering held four strands	
1 + 1 + 4 / Fingering + Fingering + Worsted	
0 + 1 + 2 + 2 / Lace + Fingering + Sport + Sport	
	<b>JUMBO</b>
4 + 4 + 4 / Worsted held three strands	
4 + 6 / Worsted + Super Bulky	
5 + 5 / Chunky + Chunky	

## QUICK TIP

When deciding whether to double a yarn for a project, there's an easy way to determine the approximate doubled yarn stitch gauge **PRIOR TO SWATCHING\***.

*\*You should still swatch to be sure, but this technique gets you a good starting point gauge.*

Take the single-strand gauge of the yarn from the yarn label and **multiply by .72**. The resulting number is the approximate gauge of that same yarn held double-strand.

**Example:** A worsted weight that knits single strand at 18 sts to 4"/10 cm would get a gauge of approximately 12.96 sts (*I'd call that 13 sts*) = 4"/10 cm when held double strand because: **18** (single strand gauge) x **.72** (the magic percentage for doubling) = **12.96** (double strand gauge)

## Stash-Busting / Scrappy Project Steps

1. Organize your yarn into appealing color groupings.  
That could mean:
  - a. All the blue (pink, red, rainbow, etc.) colored yarn in your stash.
  - b. Two colors that you like together (i.e. brown and pink / black and white / green and yellow, etc.).
  - c. A mixture of colors that have a common element (i.e. all the yarns have neon speckles, all the yarns are jewel tones or pastels, etc.).
  - d. Take a favorite painting or photograph and use that to inspire your color choices.



2. Organize your yarn color groupings by weight. Once your yarn is organized by weight, you can then decide if you have enough of one weight to make a whole project in that weight alone or if you'd like to double or triple lighter weight yarns to create bulkier weights and fascinating fabric combinations. Tip: Use the handy Yarn Weight Labels provided on Page 11 to keep your yarns organized in clear containers.
3. Pick a pattern that uses your combined yarn gauge.
4. Work stripes, marls, and ombres as desired.

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## Aesthetic Suggestions for Stash-Busting / Scrappy Projects

- Work stitch patterns at varying widths for visual interest. This also ensures that you do not need to be concerned about maintaining symmetry if you run short on a color.
- Change patterns as you change colors if you would like a patchwork look.
- Commit one or two colors of yarn to a specific stitch pattern throughout.
  - Example: Always work color A in ribbing and color B in garter stitch.
- Separate multicolor yarns with stripes of solid yarns.
- Choose one, two, or three colors to be repeated consistently in the project.
- If desired, to create cohesion among your yarns and stripes, carry one main color of yarn throughout the entire project.

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### QUICK TIP

To estimate if you have enough yarn to work a row, lay the yarn out across the width of the work on the needles three times. If the yarn measures 3 times the width, you should have enough for one row. You would need 6 times the width to work two rows.

**Example:** If a shawl measures 20"/50 cm across on the needles, 60"/150 cm of yarn is needed for one row and 120"/3 m of yarn is needed for two rows.

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## Fabric Effects while Holding Multiple Strands Together

Below are photos and instructions for achieving fascinating color effects with your yarn combinations.

### Ombres

Basic idea: Use multiple strands of the same yarn. Slowly swap out one strand of Color 1 for Color 2 to create an ombre.



Example 1: Three strands of fingering weight worked as follows:

- 3 strands white
- 2 strands white/1 strand light pink
- 1 strand white/2 strands light pink
- 3 strands light pink
- 2 strands light pink/1 strand pink
- 1 strand light pink/1 strand pink
- 3 strands pink



Example 2: Four strands of laceweight mohair worked as follows:

- 4 strands pink
- 3 strands pink/1 strand grey

- 2 strands pink/2 strands grey
- 1 strand pink/3 strands grey
- 4 strands grey



Example 3: Eight colors were used in this sample. Two strands of yarn were held together and swapped out every 8 rows to create this ombre/marl effect as follows:

- Color 1/Color 2
- Color 2/Color 3
- Color 3/Color 4
- Color 4/Color 5
- Color 5/Color 6
- Color 6/Color 7
- Color 7/Color 8
- Color 8/Color 1

Repeat this color pattern for the fabric effect.

## Marled Fabrics

Basic idea: Two or more yarns combine to create a marl.



Example 1: One strand of teal held together with one strand of beige in the center stripe of the sample create a two-color solid marl. You'll notice in this sample that the teal was held double strand in the upper right corner and the beige was held double strand in the lower left corner.



Example 2: In this marl, four strands of different fingering weight yarns are held together to create a speckled tweedy effect.



Example 3: In this sample, two strands of the same multicolor yarn were held together. This creates a subtle marl in which different colors blend and overlap.



Example 4: A self-striping yarn held together with a multicolor yarn creates a subtle stripe and marl effect.





Example 5: In these two marls, self-stripe yarns were held together with solid colored yarns. The solid color softens the stripe and pulls its color throughout the fabric.

## Cohesiveness when using multiple colors and yarns in a project



In this sample, multiple yarns and textures were used to create a sampler effect. To create cohesion, a solid color laceweight yarn was carried along throughout the entire project.



Example 6: In this marl, two different colors of self-striping marled yarns were held together. The stripes fade in and out of one another in a super-marl.

## Combining textures



In these examples, textured yarns, such as boucle and nupp yarns, were used along with smooth yarns to create visual interest.

## Mohair is Magic!

Laceweight/Fingering mohair and mohair blends are fantastic additions to make your yarn combinations thicker without adding too much extra weight to the project. Mohair also fills in holes if your knitting is a little loose or the tension is slightly off in stripes of different yarn combinations. If you are sensitive to mohair, try a laceweight alpaca, acrylic, or cotton instead.



In these examples, a white mohair was used to soften a speckled neon multicolor and a black mohair was used over a rainbow multicolor to give a stained glass effect.



In these examples, a dark color mohair (top) was held with a teal multicolor yarn and a light color mohair (bottom) was held together with the same teal yarn. The darker color mohair creates a deep haze over the fabric, whereas the lighter colored mohair creates a soft haze over the fabric.

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# Happy Knitting!

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## Yarn Weight Labels

Print this page and cut out these labels. Place them in clear boxes or bags with your yarns.

### Lace Weight

CYCA #0 

Gauge: 33 to 40 sts = 4"/10 cm

Wraps Per Inch: 30-40+

*Shaina Bilow designs*

### Worsted Weight

CYCA #4 

Gauge: 16 to 20 sts = 4"/10 cm

Wraps Per Inch: 9-12

*Shaina Bilow designs*

### Fingering Weight

CYCA #1 

Gauge: 27 to 32 sts = 4"/10 cm

Wraps Per Inch: 14-30

*Shaina Bilow designs*

### Chunky Weight


CYCA #5 

Gauge: 12 to 15 sts = 4"/10 cm

Wraps Per Inch: 6-9

*Shaina Bilow designs*

### Sport Weight

CYCA #2 

Gauge: 23 to 26 sts = 4"/10 cm

Wraps Per Inch: 12-18

*Shaina Bilow designs*

### Super Bulky Weight


CYCA #6 

Gauge: 7 to 11 sts = 4"/10 cm

Wraps Per Inch: 5-6

*Shaina Bilow designs*

### DK Weight

CYCA #3 

Gauge: 21 to 24 sts = 4"/10 cm

Wraps Per Inch: 11-15

*Shaina Bilow designs*

### Jumbo Weight

CYCA #7 

Gauge: 6 sts and fewer sts = 4"/10 cm

Wraps Per Inch: 1-4

*Shaina Bilow designs*